

REPORT OF CONDITION OF Elba Exchange Bank

OF ELBA
IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA
at the close of business on December 31, 1943

ASSETS	
Loans and discounts	\$ 107,177.25
United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed	180,500.00
Obligations of States and political subdivisions	4,500.00
Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balances, and cash items in process of collection	919,182.24
Furniture and fixtures	1,450.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,212,809.52
LIABILITIES	
Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	\$1,008,752.56
Time deposits of individuals, partnerships and corporations	2,536.29
Deposits of United States Government (including postal savings)	31,576.06
Deposits of States and political subdivisions	24,031.21
Other deposits (certified and officers' checks, etc.)	8,658.81
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$1,106,455.23
Other liabilities	50.48
TOTAL LIABILITIES (not including subordinated obligations shown below)	\$1,106,505.71
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus	20,000.00
Undivided profits	1,353.81
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	\$ 46,353.81
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	\$1,212,809.52

*This bank's capital stock consists of common stock with total par value of \$25,000.00.

MEMORANDA
U. S. Government obligations, direct and guaranteed, pledged to secure deposits and other liabilities. \$ 80,000.00
Deposits secured by pledged assets pursuant to requirements of law. 29,800.22
Deposits preferred under provisions of law but not secured by pledge of assets. 26,701.00

TOTAL \$ 56,501.22
On date of report the required legal reserve against deposits of this bank was. 174,968.28
Assets reported above which were eligible as legal reserve amounted to. 919,182.24

I, J. F. BRUNSON, President of the above-named bank, do solemnly affirm that the above statement is true, and that it fully and correctly represents the true state of the several matters herein contained and set forth, to the best of my knowledge and belief.
J. F. BRUNSON.
Correct—Attest:
Fountain Lee, Luna Dellinger, T. B. Bryan, Directors.
State of Alabama, County of Coffee, ss:
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of Jan., 1944, and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.
J. W. KENDRICK, Notary Public.
My commission expires June, 1947.

BABY CHICKS

U. S. APPROVED PULLORUM TESTED

Buy your chicks early, as January and February chicks lay plenty of eggs in the Fall when prices are highest. Early hatched chicks live better, grow faster and highest prices are paid for the cockerels.
We hatch twice each week.
50 CHICKS..... \$ 6.00
100 CHICKS..... \$11.85
Prepaid to your door.
Send Your Order at Once, We Ship Direct.

Alabama State Hatchery
Dothan, Alabama

Grade 1 Car and TRUCK TIRES

A new shipment of Grade 1 Passenger Car Tires just came in. Our stock is complete in 16, 17 and 18 Inch Sizes. If you have a Certificate come in at once while you can get the size you want.

ATTENTION, TRUCK OWNERS
We still have a large stock of truck tires in all sizes. Bring your certificates to us and we can give you what you want. Come in at once before our stock is exhausted.

EXTRA SPECIAL—We have a brand new Governor Unit for Model A Ford. Come quick if you want this Unit.

GENUINE PRESTONE ANTI-FREEZE—We have just a few gallons of this genuine permanent Anti-Freeze. Our supply is limited and no more will be available. It might be wise to buy an extra supply now.

SEAT COVERS—FLOOR MATS
We still have Felt-back Rubber Floor Mats for almost any model car. The supply is very limited. Also have a very good stock of Seat Covers. Nothing will give you more pleasure and at the same time save your upholstery.

Dorsey Brothers
Phone 146 Elba, Alabama

METHODIST WOMEN ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The Ada Marley Circle of the W. S. C. S. met at the church Monday afternoon. An interesting program was given with Mrs. W. R. Crook as leader. Mrs. A. C. Dunaway gave a most helpful devotional based on the 91st Psalm. Officers for the new year are as follows:
President, Mrs. W. R. Crook; Vice-President, Mrs. May Prescott; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. G. Jones; Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. P. Roberts; Treasurer, Mrs. R. L. Cooper; Sec. Missionary Education, Mrs. J. M. Rowe; Sec. Christian Social Relations and Chairman of Spiritual Life Groups, Mrs. A. C. Dunaway; Sec. of Supplies, Mrs. J. M. Garrett; Sec. Literature and Publications, Mrs. L. P. Morrow; Sec. Young Women and Girls, Mrs. L. S. Tolner; Sec. Student Work, Mrs. W. M. Ringsdorf.
The following committees were appointed by the president: Program, Mrs. Childs; Mrs. Felix Ham; Member-

CHRISTMAS WITH MRS. WILLIS

Among those who visited in the home of Mrs. Edna Willis during the holidays were: Mrs. Bonnie Faye Goodson and children, James and Sybil; Mrs. Joe Lee Kendrick and daughter, Sue, all of Talladega; Mr. and Mrs. Horace Hysmith, Pvt. and Mrs. Onnie B. Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. Louis S. Hysmith and children, Grace, Q. P., Myrtle, Julius, Delmer Bryan and others. But the best Christmas Mrs. Willis had came on Tuesday after Christmas Day when she received a letter from her son, Pfc. Henry O. Willis, who is serving overseas. He said he had received some of his boxes. She was so proud to hear from him. He was O K at that time and we wish him the best of luck and a safe return home, if it be God's Will—Cont.

EXTENDS THANKS

We wish to express our sincere thanks and deep gratitude to all friends and relatives who gave their help and sympathy during the sickness and death of our beloved wife and mother. We thank all who ministered to us in this great sorrow, and pray God's blessings upon them.
John E. Holley and Children
Master Sergeant and Mrs. Dewey Weeks, of Eglin Field, Fla., are the proud parents of twin sons, Ronald and Donald, born January fifth. Mrs. Weeks was Ruby Brown, formerly of Elba.
Hamburgers—nice, juicy, 10c. Stephenson Cafe
Rent Notes, 2 for 5c, at The Clipper office.

IF YOU NEED GLASSES

It Will Pay You to Wait For BARSON!
After all, it's the examination that counts. Correct, scientific examination of your eyes is the ONLY way to determine whether or not you need glasses.
My knowledge in fitting glasses, gained through years of practice, has given me a State-wide reputation. Among your relatives and acquaintances you will find somebody who will tell you how satisfactory my work is.
Because I specialize in this work only—scientific examination and proper fitting of glasses—you are assured of complete satisfaction.
TWICE EACH MONTH
I am at Whitman Drug Company in Elba the First Wednesday and again on the Third Sunday Afternoon of each month.
DR. S. A. BARSON
OPTOMETRIST
402-3 First National Bank — Montgomery, Alabama

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1944

Major Dozier S. Bryan, who is co-chairman with Dick Dorman in the War Bond Campaign, is working out a program that will be packed with thrills and entertainment for everybody. The program will start about eleven o'clock and last till mid-afternoon.
In addition to the band concerts there will be auction sales and War Bond sales throughout the entire period. In response to a proclamation by Mayor L. P. Mullins, business houses have agreed to close during this program and join in the campaign to sell Coffee's quota in this 4th War Loan. The county quota has been set at \$588,000.00, and this amount can be oversubscribed easily, if every one will do his or her part. Our fighting men are not shirking their duty, and they are looking to the home front to back them up.
Major Bryan stated that in nearly every community bond selling committees are being organized for a knock-out job. Kinison has perfected plans for an all-out campaign, and Elba committees are completing details for a systematic campaign in the city. Members of Culver Post No. 42, American Legion are cooperating with the committee here for this campaign.
Be sure you come to Elba next Tuesday. Bring along your friends and join in this big rally. We must back up our boys who are now on the battle fronts—WE MUST "BACK THE ATTACK."
GETS COMMISSION
Lieut. John Paul Roberts who received his wings and commission in the Army Air Forces at Luke Field, Phoenix, Arizona, on January 7, spent a short furlough here last week with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. C. P. Roberts. He has been assigned to duty with the Air Service Command and will be stationed at San Bernardino, California. He left Sunday for his new assignment.

WE BOUGHT EXTRA WAR BONDS



Every patriotic home in America will want to put up this emblem!

Display your war colors

Every patriotic home in America will want to put up this emblem!

This emblem is a symbol of your patriotism. It tells the world that you have done your full share in the 4th War Loan. Every true-American will be proud to display it at home.
Your valiant fighting men... soldiers, sailors and marines... on every far-flung battlefield are on the attack... forging ahead steadily, relentlessly. Nothing on earth can stop them... if you back them up! Backing them up means throwing every dollar we can possibly spare into the fight right now... even if it takes sacrifice on our part.
That's the purpose of this 4th War Loan Drive.
To earn the right to display the 4th War Loan Emblem you must invest in at least one EXTRA hundred dollar Bond (at a cost of only \$75)... over and above your regular War Bond subscription. But don't stop with one! Invest in all the extra Bonds you think you can afford... then invest in some more!
Remember, every dollar you put into War Bonds does double duty. It helps to win the war... and at the same time it insures your own financial security.
Here, too, is a chance to help your company meet its quota in this 4th War Loan.
Maybe this will mean sacrifice on your part. Maybe it will mean doing without something you want. But don't forget... while you are only lending a few spare dollars to our gallant fighting men are giving their lives for you! Show that you're backing them up 100%. Invest in extra War Bonds to the limit of your ability. And display the 4th War Loan Emblem at home!

BUILD YOUR FUTURE WITH THE WORLD'S SAFEST INVESTMENT

Somewhere in New Guinea... Bonds backed up by the strongest "company" in the world. Build that home you have always dreamed about. Send your child to college. Buy the wonderful things that are coming after the war. YOU CAN DO IT WITH YOUR WAR BOND SAVINGS.
There are War Bonds to fit your needs... Bonds backed up by the strongest "company" in the world. Build that home you have always dreamed about. Send your child to college. Buy the wonderful things that are coming after the war. YOU CAN DO IT WITH YOUR WAR BOND SAVINGS.
What about you? Are you letting the dollars slip through your fingers—dollars that should be put safely away in War Bonds?
You, they are helping their country in its grimest struggle. But they are helping themselves, too! They are helping to secure their future, to weather any troubled days that may lie ahead.
What about you? Are you letting the dollars slip through your fingers—dollars that should be put safely away in War Bonds?

Let's All BACK THE ATTACK!

4th War Loan Campaign Will Be Launched Jan. 18

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 4TH WAR LOAN CAMPAIGN BY

Elba Exchange Bank and Emergency Aid Life Association

4th WAR LOAN

Let's All Back The Attack

VOLUME 47

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1944

NUMBER 35

Parachute Jumping, Band Concert, Auction Sales Will Feature War Bond Rally Here Next Tuesday

Elba's 4th War Loan Campaign will formally open on next Tuesday, January 25th, when Paratroopers from Ft. Benning, a Brass Band from one of the military posts in this section, converge on the city, joining other forces to make the day one long to be remembered.
Every man, woman, boy and girl in the Elba area is cordially invited and urged to be present during this gala occasion. Parachute troops, with full equipment will descend on the city in the afternoon. This will be one of the most thrilling spectacles ever seen in this section and one you may not ever see again.
Major Dozier S. Bryan, who is co-chairman with Dick Dorman in the War Bond Campaign, is working out a program that will be packed with thrills and entertainment for everybody. The program will start about eleven o'clock and last till mid-afternoon.
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To the People of this Community

THINK IT OVER
How about doing a little odd thing, thinking about it, and saying this newspaper tonight, "You've got a good job. The chances are there is someone else in your family, working two or three, working your son or your brother-in-law, may be away at war. This war must end soon, and your family must be able to take care of itself. Your neighbors are praying it ends soon and that you and yours will come home safely. But will you be ready for whatever happens when peace comes? We're all hoping it will be here soon, but we mean making something for somebody's sorrow. That's where your War Bonds come into the picture. Sure Americans own War Bonds, and lots of War Bonds now, and before the 4th War Loan ends for the one that comes, the bigger chance you'll have to slip right into the postwar world you're dreaming about tonight. So "Let's All Back the Attack!"
THE EDITOR.

DORSEY SEZ:



PHONE 146

IT'S GOOD BUSINESS—

to keep your motor in good condition—and more important now than ever before. Repair parts are hard to get but you may save a repair bill by letting our trained mechanics give your car a regular check-up.
Save your present car.
We are official tire inspectors, and also have a good stock of tires.

All Kinds of Auto Accessories, Tires, Etc.

SEE US NOW FOR YOUR

FERTILIZER

And Seed Peanuts

We can supply you with any kind of Fertilizer you will need this year, but YOU MUST GET IT RIGHT NOW. Come in today and give us your order and we will deliver it right to your farm. You can order from our office in Elba or at Damascus.

We also have No. 1 RUNNER SEED PEANUTS, selected stock, for delivery at our Elba Warehouse. It will pay you to get your seed before the supply is exhausted. Give us your order now.

Whitman Gin Co.

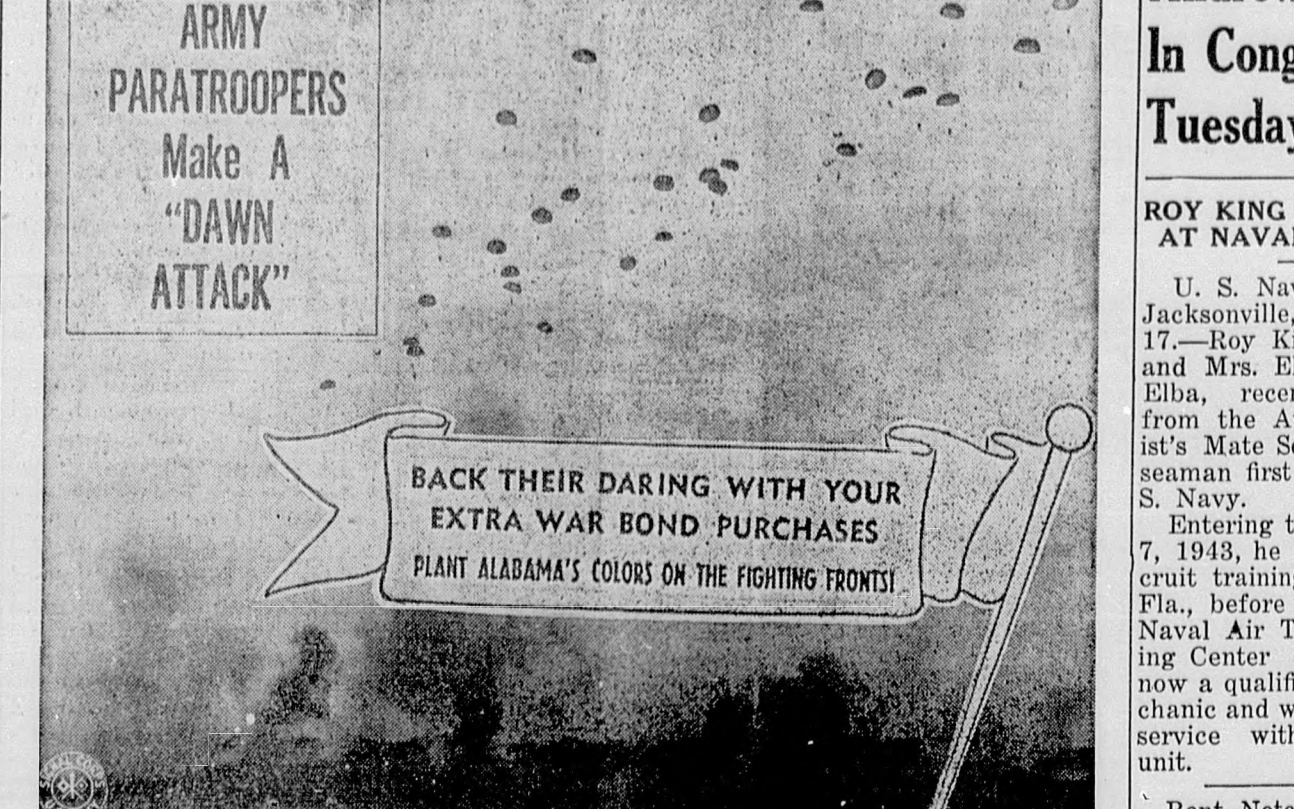
Flournoy Whitman, Prop. Elba and Damascus

THE ELBA CLIPPER

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1944

NUMBER 35

ARMY PARATROOPERS Make A "DAWN ATTACK"



BACK THEIR DARING WITH YOUR EXTRA WAR BOND PURCHASES. PLANT ALABAMA'S COLORS ON THE FIGHTING FRONTS!

BACK UP THE ARMY WITH YOUR DOLLARS—On battle fronts around the world Army fighters, like the paratroopers shown above, are moving in on the enemy. Extra war bond purchases now, says State War Finance Chairman Ed Leigh, will allow Alabamians to take their stand on the fighting fronts with these brave men.

First Week Of Fourth War Loan Honors Alabamians In The Army

War Finance Chairman Calls On State To Back The Attack of Soldiers
The first week of the Fourth War Loan Drive is "Army Week." State War Finance Chairman Ed Leigh McMullen of Brewton today called on all Alabamians to back the attack of the men of this great branch of the service.
Each week of the Fourth War Loan, Mr. McMullen pointed out, our government and our people will honor the men of one of the branches of the armed services.
The second week will be Navy Week and the third week will be Marine Week, Mr. McMullen said.
"Thousands of Alabama boys are carrying the attack to the enemy right at this moment," Mr. McMullen said.
"We have at home, for all the bonds we have bought in the past and all the tools of war that we have turned out with our labor must stay in the fight."
"Each battle destroys not only our men but the implements of war that they use to carry the fight to our enemies."
"Thousands of the tanks, planes, guns, ships and other equipment that we bought in the past have been wrecked and destroyed."
"The equipment must be replaced if the fight is to go on."
"The men of the army, many of whom have already given their lives, cannot be asked to do this job of replacement."
"That is the job of the men, women and children back here at home."
"I cannot urge you too strongly to 'Dig Down Deep', make every sacrifice, do not be too optimistic about the end of the war and loan your dollars for this replacement job."
"Many of you must have had letters from your sons, brothers, husbands and friends at the front telling of what could have been done if there had been more and better equipment."
"You realize, I am sure, that the greatest battles of the war are just ahead."
"Make every sacrifice for this great cause... THE ALL OUT BACKING OF OUR OWN BOYS. Let us listen to the Alabama's Colors on the Fighting Fronts."

MRS. FLEMING'S FATHER DIES SUNDAY AFTER A SHORT ILLNESS

Friends of Mrs. J. C. Fleming deeply sympathize with her in the death of her father, Mr. Jerre Parks, age 93 years, which occurred at his home in the Shiloh community, Pike county, last Sunday about noon. He had been ill about two weeks, suffering from an attack of influenza.
Surviving are four sons: Alex and J. C. Parks, Jr., Brundridge; Ralph and John Parks, Troy; four daughters: Mrs. Asa B. Copeland, Troy; Mrs. J. C. Fleming, Elba; Mrs. Sallie Norris, Montgomery; Miss Nettie Mae Parks, of Shiloh community; and many other relatives.
Funeral was held Monday afternoon at Shiloh church, with burial in the church cemetery.

FLYING CROSS AWARD FOR CAPT. BOB WILLIS

Somewhere in New Guinea—Lieut. General George C. Kenny, Commander of the Allied Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific, has awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross to Capt. Bob J. Willis, of Kinison, Ala., for "extraordinary achievement while participating in 50 operational flight missions in the Southwest Pacific Area, during which hostile contact was probable and expected, while serving with a troop carrier squadron with the Fifth Air Force."
These operations consisted of dropping supplies and transporting troops to advanced positions in flights which involved flying at low altitudes over mountainous terrain, under adverse weather conditions in a transport plane, and often necessitated landing within a few miles of enemy bases. Throughout these flights he demonstrated outstanding ability and devotion to duty.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY "SALUTE FOR THREE"

—With—
A Great Cast

SUNDAY AND MONDAY "RANDOM HARVEST"

—Starring—
Greer Garson and Ronald Colman
Admission 10c and 25c

TUESDAY Only—Bargain Day "GREAT IMPERSONATION"

—Starring—
Ralph Bellamy
All Seats 10c

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY "SALUTE FOR THREE"

—With—
A Great Cast

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY!

4th WAR LOAN

Let's All Back The Attack

VOLUME 47

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1944

NUMBER 35

Andrews And Farmer Will Be In Congressional Run-Off Set For Tuesday, February 8th

ROY KING GRADUATES AT NAVAL AIR SCHOOL
U. S. Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., January 17—Roy King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis D. King, of Elba, recently graduated from the Aviation Machinist's Mate School here as a seaman first class in the U. S. Navy.
Entering the service June 7, 1943, he received his recruit training at Pensacola, Fla., before arriving at the Naval Air Technical Training Center here. King is now a qualified aviation mechanic and will probably see service with a Naval Air unit.
Rent Notes, 2 for 5c, at The Clipper office.

Lieut. George Andrews of Union Springs and Pearl Harbor, and J. Hubert Farmer, of Dothan, will be in the run-off primary in the third congressional district of which has been set for February 8. Andrews led the ticket in the Jan. 11th primary but lacked more than 500 votes getting a clear majority. The latest figures tabulated, however these are not official, gave the following result in the district:

Andrews 7,736
Farmer 6,085
Smith 2,381
Bennett 512

Friends of both candidates have already made plans for vigorous campaigns for the run-off on February 8.

Classified Advertising

If you want to buy, sell, swap, rent or locate lost property, try an adv. in this column.

Best No.	Andrews	Bennett	Farmer	Smith
1	35	1	2	0
2	14	0	5	1
3	12	0	0	5
4	5	0	7	0
5	5	0	7	0
6-1	260	2	14	28
6-2	55	3	3	17
7-1	23	0	19	2
7-2	14	0	2	0
8-1	12	2	25	1
8-2	7	3	26	0
9	18	0	4	1
9-2	86	1	18	12
10-1	69	0	6	2
10-2	28	0	0	0
11	20	0	1	0
12	31	0	20	6
14-1	5	1	19	0
14-2	11	0	0	0
15	48	0	1	1
16	36	0	3	0
17-1	145	7	57	4
17-2	119	6	57	2
18	62	0	2	0
19	18	0	0	8
20	15	0	8	4
21	17	0	0	0
22	39	0	1	0
23	39	0	1	0
24	56	0	9	0

Total 1830 28 317 97

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL IN ENTERPRISE MONDAY

A leadership school for home demonstration club leaders will be held in the office of the home agent, Miss Mamie B. Mathews, in the court house in Enterprise Monday, January 24, beginning at 1:30 p. m. Miss Mamie B. Mathews, home management specialist of Auburn, will be in charge, having as topic for discussion, "Planned Spending."
Leaders from all clubs in the Eastern section of the county are scheduled to be present. Leaders unable to attend are expected to provide substitutes.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Smith announce the birth of a daughter on Sunday, January 16, whom they have named Paula Nan.

A Good Resolution

If you are not already a regular customer of this bank, now is a good time to make a resolution that you will join our list of satisfied customers at the beginning of this New Year.
Come in and let us tell you about the many services we have to offer.

ELBA EXCHANGE BANK

J. F. BRUNSON, Pres. E. G. BRAGG, Vice-Pres.
T. B. BRYAN, Cashier
LUNA DELLE RINGO, Assistant Cashier

BLEED THROUGH

THE ELBA CLIPPER

Published Every Third Morning
K. C. Bryan, Owner-Publisher
Entered as second class matter
July 18, 1905, at the Postoffice
at Elba, Alabama, under Act of
Congress of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
In Coffee County \$1.50
Six Months .75
Outside Coffee County \$2.00
One Year .75
Six Months \$1.00

CASH IN ADVANCE
No Subscription accepted for
less than 6 months. All names
will be cut off on expiration date.

USE YOUR JUDGMENT AND VOTE ACCORDING TO YOUR CONVICTION

A man's right to vote ac-
cording to the dictates of
his better judgment is a
privilege and pleasure we
enjoy in this great nation
today. May it ever be as
our forefathers before us
have done.

May we as loyal, patriotic
citizens of this great nation
realize there is a job to do
and a place to fill in this
world-wide struggle we are
now confronted with. Let's
remember that this country
was built by great men who
possessed courage, and faith
in the future, supported by
their own good judgment.
Most of all let's remember
this nation is no stronger
than its weakest citizen.
We need strong men today
to help guide and decide
what the future will be for
you and for me. When the
day is done and the battle
won may it always be, not
the ending—Contributed.

Sgt. Sidney Stephens Writes From Italy

Mrs. J. F. Stevens, Elba,
Ala., recently received the
letter below from her son,
Sgt. Sidney Stephens, who is
another member of Elba's
old Battery D, A.N.C., now
with the Field Artillery in
Italy. The letter follows:
Dec. 12, 1943

Dear Mother:
Will answer your letter
which I received a few days
back. Was glad to hear that
you all were well, as far as
myself, I am well.

I guess you know by now
I am in Italy. I like over
here fine. I had rather be
here than in North Africa,
for I can get fruit and nuts of
all kinds to eat, so you see
we will have plenty of fruit.
I've been in battle on the
front lines but it is not so
bad as you would think it
was. We don't lose very
much sleep, and have fox
holes to get in, in case we
have to. Don't worry about
me for I am o. k. I guess
Grace and the children are
all well. I have not heard
from her since the 12th of
Nov., but I am hoping for
some mail today. We have
been getting mail in the Bn
but we did not get any yes-
terday. I will close for this
time. From your son, Love,
SIDNEY.

The petroleum industry in
Texas provides a living for
1,000,000 people.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in
the terms of a mortgage executed
to The First National Bank of
Elba, a corporation, by Elsie
Hammond, on March 24, 1934,
which said mortgage is recorded
in the Probate Office of Coffee
County, Alabama, at Elba, in
Mortgage Record L-3, page 408,
which said mortgage was trans-
ferred to the undersigned, and
said default continuing, I will
sell at public outcry for cash to the
highest bidder, in front of the
Courtroom door in said County,
between the legal hours of sale,
on the 31st day of January, 1944,
the following described property,
or interest therein of said Elsie
Hammond to-wit:

All 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Section 15
and N 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 22,
Township 5, Range 20, Coffee
County, Alabama.

Said sale is made for the pur-
pose of paying the mortgage debt
and costs and expenses of fore-
closure. This December 29, 1943.
L. H. Hammond,
430-220 Transferee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
The Sunday School Lesson is
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for January 23

LESSON TEXT—Mark 4:1-20, 26-32.
GOLDEN TEXT—If any man hath ears
to hear, let him hear.—Mark 4:23.

JESUS TEACHES IN PARABLES
LESSON TEXT—Mark 4:1-20, 26-32.
GOLDEN TEXT—If any man hath ears
to hear, let him hear.—Mark 4:23.

Parables were often used by our
Lord, particularly when He had
truth to reveal which was not for
unbelieving hearts that had hard-
ened themselves against it (see
Matt. 13:10-15).

The method is that of telling an
earthly story, true to life (hence, not
a fable), which is placed alongside
of the spiritual truth it is designed
to teach. It thus differs from an
allegory, which gives the meaning
of the spiritual truth in the allegory
itself. Jesus used parables in our lesson
to teach the truth that the good seed
of the Word of God will be received
in various ways and will bring forth
widely differing results. He—the
Lord—was the Sower, and the seed
was the Word (Matt. 13:37, 38).
We note first that in that field
where the seed was sown.

I. Four Kinds of Soil (Mark
4:1-9).

The reception of the seed is de-
termined by the condition of the soil.
The great field was essentially of the
kind of soil, but it had become wide-
ly different in its ability to take in
the seed and bear fruit.

The interpretation of this parable
is given by our Lord in the verses
immediately following (vv. 32-34).
It has striking application to our day.

A road, or beaten pathway, was a
common thing in the fields of Palest-
ine. On such hard soil a seed found
no place to grow, and the birds car-
ried it away. Such is the condition
of a man who permits the heavy
and sinful traffic of this world to
harden his heart against spiritual
truth. If our heart has reached that
stage we should ask God to break
it up. The Bible says: "The heart
of man is deceitful above all things,
and desperately wicked; who can
understand it?" (Jer. 17:9).

The rocky soil was a thin layer of
good soil on a rocky ledge. The seed
caused rapid growth, but with-
out deep roots it could not survive
the heat of summer. This is the one
who enthusiastically responds to the
gospel appeal, but being without real
conviction and repentance, he has
no stability when persecution comes.

The thorny ground—where the
growing grain was choked by weeds
—typifies the professed believer who
lives in worldliness. The friend of
the world is God's enemy (James
4:4). Note the things which destroy
spiritual life (vv. 19), and shun them.

In the good ground—open to receive
and ready to yield itself for the
growth of the seed—the fruit is abun-
dant. Even here there is a difference
in the amount of fruit. Why not
be a "hundredfold" be-
liever?

Changing the picture a little our
Lord now speaks of—

II. Normal Growth and a Good
Harvest (4:26-29).

This parable, found only in Mark,
has a lesson for the sower. He is
not to expect the harvest immedi-
ately after the time of sowing. There
is a period of patient waiting while
God is producing the growth (and
only He can do it!)—then the joy of
harvest.

There are many lessons to learn
here. We who serve the Lord in
teaching or preaching the Word are
not impatient, too eager to be able
to announce results. God is always
willing that things should mature
naturally and in due season. Let
us wait for Him and be at rest in
our spirits (v. 37).

Then let us be glad as the seed
begins to show signs of maturing,
but let us not be slow to gather
the harvest when it is ready. Some
forget to gather the spiritual fruit
of their labors, possibly having long
since lost patience and service.

We should also be encouraged by
this parable to continue sowing the
seed, knowing that it will find place
in the hearts of some and bring forth
fruit unto eternal life.

Next we are warned to be on our
guard against accepting or approv-
ing of sin.

III. Abnormal Growth and an Evil
Harvest (4:30-32).

The mustard is an herb, not a tree;
hence this parable gave the impres-
sion that there would be an over-
grown religion calling itself Chris-
tianity. The birds are (as in the
parable of the kinds of soil) evil
men, "of the air," or organized
evil, eager to take shelter in a religious
system without spiritual power.
The church had such an abnormal
growth when Constantine espoused
Christianity as a political move,
mixed it with paganism and elevated
it to a position of worldly
power.

All this was and still is contrary
to God's plan for the church. He
wanted a spiritual body distinguished
by lowliness, meekness and service.
These are the things that mark the
true Christian spirit. The marks of
true Christianity are always those
of likeness to Him who said: "I am
meek and lowly in heart," who came
"not to be ministered unto but to
minister."

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